



News Release

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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California Man Arrested for Traveling to South Carolina for Sex with Minor *Attorney General Wilson: a reminder that “predators are real”*

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced the arrest of Charles Henry Ross (DOB: 2/10/1986) of San Diego, California on three (3) counts connected to sexual conduct with a minor. The Lexington County Sheriff’s Office, a member of the Attorney General’s Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, made the arrest.

Investigators say Ross began chatting online several months ago with a minor living in Lexington County. On August 6, 2014, Ross traveled to South Carolina from California to engage in several instances of sexual conduct with the victim.

When the victim’s mother discovered Ross in her son’s bedroom on August 8, 2014, he fled the residence on foot. He was later discovered and arrested by officers from the Lexington County Sheriff’s office.

Ross was charged with one (1) count of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor (§16-15-342), a felony offense punishable by up to ten (10) years imprisonment, and two (2) counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor, second degree (§16-3-655(b)), a felony offense punishable by up to twenty (20) years imprisonment and Sex Offender Registry status. Additional charges may be forthcoming. Bond was set at \$275,000, and Ross must remain in the state.

Attorney General Wilson said, “This arrest is a reminder that predators are real. Everyday our Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force works to protect South Carolina’s children from those who wish them harm. Predators no longer lurk on playgrounds, but now cruise the Internet looking for victims.

“In criminal cases,” Wilson continued, “all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law. It is our duty to vigorously prosecute these cases, and to seek serious punishment for those who are convicted of harming a child.”

The case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Office.

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